

Assignment TV

By TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY

NEW YORK -- The snow was falling slowly like big white cornflakes and the view of Central Park through the cab's frosty window looked like a giant Christmas card. New York is at its best when the snow covers the ugly spots and the people hide their faces in their coat collars.

In America with its red brocade wall coverings and dark wood paneling.

There at a table by the window was Miss Stanwyck. She wore a beige tweed suit with a scarf tied at the neck. Her hair is silver. She greeted us warmly and I asked if we had missed a grand movie star entrance.

"Oh, sure," she said rolling her eyes heavenward. "That's something Joan (Crawford) could get away with, but not I. If I tried it in Hollywood the crew would break up laughing. With Joan people would be disappointed if she didn't."

"The last time I was in New York we had lunch together and it was snowing then too."

I wore a beaver coat, not a light nutria like they wear here, but a heavy grizzly bear kind of fur. Joan came down the stairs at her apartment in a thin silk dress with a chin-chilla stole. I took one long look and said, "Damn you, Joan, you can still come down stairs better than anyone in the business." She made me look like a country cousin.

THE SHOOTING on "The Big Valley" had finished for the season and Miss Stanwyck had come to New York for the presentation of the Photoplay Award of the Year as best television actress.

"At least I know I am getting this one," she said. "I sat through the motion picture

academy awards, the four times I had been nominated and I sat there frozen to the upholstery with my heart pounding in my mouth and smiling my Double Indemnity smile. And all four times someone else got up and got the Oscar."

Miss Stanwyck will be playing her role of the mother of the Barkley clan again next season — a kind of female version of the Cartwrights of "Bonanza." Both she and Lorne Greene have seen a lot of trouble in the television ranching business.

"I've played the four-day in vaudeville but television is the toughest work yet," said Miss Stanwyck. "Sometimes I think I won't

make it, but then I hear the whirl of the cameras and lights are on me and I pull myself together."

MISS STANWYCK goes back a way in time, but not too far. Her film "The Bitter Tea of General Yen" opened in Radio City Music Hall way back when. She was discovered by Hollywood in the stage play "Burlesque," but the role in the movie was given to an established film star named Nancy Carroll.

"Audience considered the play pretty racy but it seems tame compared to what you see today," said Miss Stanwyck. "I remember in one scene I appeared in what we used to call a 'teddy' that cov-

ered me from neck to thigh and the audience gasped. In those days choruse girls striped but never stars. I would not get to first base in that kind of role today."

I asked her about her leisure life. "Well, I live in Beverly Hills in a comfortable kind of home. I have big ash trays and big comfortable chairs. I don't clutter the place up with cute little ceramic shepherdesses guiding sheep across the top of the mantle. It's bright and clean, but not the kind of place you'd be afraid to come into with your shoes on."

Sounds like the sort of place Ma Barkley — or Pa Cartwright for that matter — would feel right at home in.

Doctorate Awarded to Professor

Charles P. Sohner, a political science instructor at El Camino College, has been awarded a doctorate degree from the University of Southern California for advanced work in the area of political science.

Sohner, 321 Camino de las Colinas, has been a member of the ECC faculty since 1953. He also holds a Master's degree from USC and a bachelor of science degree from Northwestern University.



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